



Knox County Emergency Management Agency
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KNOX CART SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

Would you like to be part of a team whose mission includes animal welfare in emergencies?

The Knox County Animal Response Team, or “Knox CART” for short, is looking for motivated volunteers desiring to make a difference for people and their household pets and service animals during emergencies. Prospective team members are trained locally to the U.S. Citizens Corps “*Community Emergency Response Team*” standards followed by specialty training incorporating best practices from the Humane Society of the United States, United Animal Nation and the American Red Cross.

The team compliments existing facilities and services which could be easily overwhelmed in a large scale emergency while also providing emergency planning and information to area residents. In the aftermath of hurricane Katrina, officials learned many Gulf Coast residents refused to evacuate without their pets, and those who did found “people shelters” unprepared or unwilling to accept the influx of domestic animals. This prompted Congress to pass the “Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act” or PETS Act for short. This act requires state and local emergency management officials to incorporate household pets and service animals into disaster preparedness plans and emergency sheltering programs.

The Knox CART meets at 5:00pm on the first Monday of each month at the offices of the Knox County Emergency Management Agency at 301 Park Street in Rockland. Interested citizens are invited to attend. For more information or a team application contact the Knox County Emergency Management Agency at 594-5155.

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According to the Humane Society of the United States, pets are found in nearly 65% of all homes in America and some 60% of those pet owners would refuse to evacuate in an emergency without their pets.